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Commission on the Status of Women
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Agenda item 3
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Mauritius:* ** revised draft resolution

Women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling the relevant strategic objectives and actions set out in the Beijing Platform for Action[1] and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[2] and the goals and targets set forth in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS[3] adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session, in 2001 and the HIV/AIDS-related goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 2000,[4] in particular the aim of Member States to have halted, by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS,

Recalling also its resolutions 46/2 of 15 March 2002, 47/1 of 10 March 2003 and 48/2 of 9 March 2004 on women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS,

Recalling further the Declaration and Plan of Action contained in the final document of the special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled "A world fit for children",[5] and recognizing that their implementation is a major contribution to protecting the rights and promoting the well-being of children,

* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

** On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Southern African Development Community.

[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] Resolution S-23/3, annex.

[3] General Assembly resolution S-26/2, annex.

[4] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[5] General Assembly resolution S-27/2, annex.

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Recalling General Assembly resolution 58/236 of 23 December 2003, entitled "Follow-up to the outcome of the twenty-sixth special session: implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS",

Recalling also Commission on Human Rights resolution 2004/26 of 16 April 2004, entitled, "Access to medication in the context of pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria",

Recalling further the holding of the XV International AIDS Conference in Bangkok, from 11 to 16 July 2004, with the theme of "Access for All" in respect of people living with HIV/AIDS,

Welcoming the launch in February 2004, by the Joint United Nations Programme on AIDS and its partners, of the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS, which seeks to raise awareness of the effects of HIV/AIDS on women and girls and to stimulate and increase action in the fight against HIV/AIDS,

Also welcoming the high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS, scheduled to take place in June 2005, to review the progress achieved in realizing the commitments set out in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS,

Acknowledging that prevention, care, support and treatment for those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS are mutually reinforcing elements of an effective response and must be integrated in a comprehensive approach to combat the epidemic,

Recognizing that populations destabilized by armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, including refugees, internally displaced persons and, in particular, women and children, are at an increased risk of exposure to HIV infection,

Deeply concerned that the global HIV/AIDS pandemic disproportionately affects women and girls, and that the majority of new HIV infections occurs among young people,

Concerned that women's unequal legal, economic and social status and violence against women and girls as well as other cultural and physiological factors increase their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS,

Also concerned that women and girls have different and unequal access to and use of health resources for the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS,

1. *Stresses with deep concern* that the HIV/AIDS emergency, with its devastating scale and impact, requires urgent actions in all fields and at all levels;

2. *Also stresses* that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are fundamental elements in the reduction of their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, and emphasizes that the advancement of women and girls is key to reversing the pandemic;

3. *Reaffirms* the need for Governments, supported by relevant actors, including civil society, to intensify national efforts and international cooperation in the implementation of the commitments contained in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS[3] and to work towards effectively reflecting in their national policies and strategies the gender dimension of the pandemic, in line with the time-bound goals of the Declaration;

4. *Urges* Governments to take all necessary measures to empower women and strengthen their economic independence and to protect and promote their full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to enable them to protect themselves from HIV infection;

5. *Also urges* Governments to strengthen initiatives that would increase the capacities of women and adolescent girls to protect themselves from the risk of HIV infection, principally through the provision of health care and health services, including for sexual and reproductive health and through prevention education that promotes gender equality within a culturally and gender-sensitive framework;

6. *Further urges* Governments to expand access to treatment, in a progressive and sustainable manner, including the prevention and treatment of opportunistic diseases and effective use of antiretroviral medication and to promote access to low-cost effective drugs and related pharmaceutical products;

7. *Calls upon* Governments to intensify efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls in relation to HIV/AIDS, including through challenging stereotypes, stigmatization, discriminatory attitudes and gender inequalities and to encourage the active involvement of men and boys in this regard;

8. *Encourages* the continued collaboration among the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the World Health Organization and other United Nations agencies, as well as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and other international organizations to address and reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS, in particular in the context of emergency situations and as part of humanitarian efforts, and also encourages the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in their work;

9. *Welcomes* the commitment by the World Health Organization and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS to work with the international community to support developing countries in achieving the target of providing antiretroviral medicines to three million people infected with HIV/AIDS by the end of 2005, the "3 by 5" target;

10. *Encourages* the ongoing work by the United Nations system in providing widespread information on the gender dimension of the pandemic and in raising awareness about the critical intersection between gender inequality and HIV/AIDS;

11. *Emphasizes* the need for the rapid scaling up of treatment programmes to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV and to encourage men to participate with women in programmes designed to prevent mother-to-child transmission;

12. *Encourages* the design and implementation of programmes to enable men, including young men, to adopt safe and responsible sexual and reproductive behaviour and to use effective methods to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS;

13. *Recognizes* the importance of young men and women having access to the information, education, including peer education and youth-specific HIV education, and services necessary to develop the life skills required to reduce their vulnerability to HIV infection, in full participation with young persons, parents, families, educators and health-care providers;

14. *Calls* for enhanced efforts by all relevant actors to include a gender perspective in the development of HIV/AIDS programmes and policies and in the

training of personnel involved in implementing such programmes, including through focusing on the role of men and boys in addressing HIV/AIDS;

15. *Urges* Governments to continue to promote the participation and the significant contribution of people living with HIV/AIDS, young people and civil society actors in addressing the problem of HIV/AIDS in all its aspects, including promoting a gender perspective, and also to promote their full involvement and participation in the design, planning, implementation and evaluation of HIV/AIDS programmes;

16. *Welcomes* financial contributions made to date towards the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, urges further contributions to sustain the Fund, and calls upon all countries to encourage the private sector to contribute to the Fund;

17. *Calls upon* all Governments to take measures to ensure that the necessary resources are made available, in particular from donor countries and also from national budgets in line with the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS;

18. *Invites* the Secretary-General to take a gender perspective into account when preparing the report requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 58/236;

19. *Decides* to consider this question further at its fiftieth session.